

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02333 182246Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSC-01 CPR-03 PA-01 ICA-11
/081 W

-----046233 200104Z /70

R 181845Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6027
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 2333

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, BB, US
SUBJECT: REPORTED CABINET CHANGES MAY MEAN NEW GOB ENVOYS TO
US AND UN

1. TWICE-WEEKLY NATION NEWSPAPER AUGUST 18 HEADLINED IMMINENT
CABINET CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER TOM
ADAMS THAT MAY RESULT IN JOBS IN BARBADOS FOR GOB AMBASSADOR TO
THE US OLIVER JACKMAN AND AMBASSADOR TO THE UN DONALD BLACKMAN.
EMBASSY ALSO HAD SIMILAR THOUGH SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT REPORT FROM A
LEADING MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY EARLIER THIS WEEK.

2. ACCORDING TO THE NATION REPORT, THE CHANGES SUPPOSEDLY WILL
BE PROMPTED BY THE RETIREMENTS OF GOB HIGH COMMISSIONER TO LON-
DON C.B. WILLIAMS AND MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LANDS SENATOR RON-
ALD MAPP. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY ALGY SYMMONDS IS
REPORTEDLY THE FAVORITE FOR THE LONDON POST, JACKMAN IS TO TAKE
SYMMONDS JOB AND BLACKMAN IS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE SENATE IN
ORDER TO HEAD MAPP'S MINISTRY. THE REPORT ALSO INDICATES THAT
NOW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LINDSAY BOLDEN AND MINISTER OF
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COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKDS L.B. BRATHWAITE WILL SWITCH
PORTFOLIOS.

3. THE OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBER INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT
BLACKMAN WOULD BE BROUGHT HOME TO HOLD THE LABOUR
PORTFOLIO, WHILE CURRENT LABOUR MINISTER LIONEL CRAIG
WOULD MOVE TO HOUSING AND LANDS. THE MEMBER CONFIRMED

THAT SYMONDS HAD THE INSIDE TRACK TO LONDON, BUT DID NOT MENTION ANY CHANGE IN JACKMAN'S STATUS OR THE BOLDEN-BRATHWAITE SWITCH.

4. THE NATION REPORT ALSO INDICATES THAT FIVE OTHER PERMANENT SECRETARIES WILL BE SHUFFLED AT THE SAME TIME. THE MOST IMPORTANT MOVES NOTED WOULD BE THE REASSIGNMENT OF DR. GEORGE REID FROM FINANCE TO TRADE AND THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO MORE PERMSECS TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE BUREAUCRACY THERE.

5. COMMENT. NEITHER REPORT TO THE EMBASSY INDICATES ANY LIKELY SUCCESSORS TO EITHER JACKMAN OR BLACKMAN. THERE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY A MAJOR RESHUFFLE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE GIVEN THE REPORTS AND EVEN IF ONE CONSIDERS THAT SPREADING REMORS IS A NATIONAL PASTIME IN THIS INTIMATE SOCIETY. END COMMENT.
EDDY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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